

## Past simple vs Past continuous

**Exercise 1. Complete the story with the Past Simple or Past Continuous forms of the verbs in brackets.**

What \_\_\_\_\_ (1.you/do) the last time you \_\_\_\_\_ (2. see) something truly amazing? Well, fisherman and journalist Al McGlashan \_\_\_\_\_ (3. fish) with friends in his private boat when he found (find) something very, very strange. At first the group of fishermen \_\_\_\_\_ (4. not/know) what it was, but when they \_\_\_\_\_ (5. look) closely, they saw the body of a giant squid – almost four metres long!

Al got out his video camera and then another amazing thing \_\_\_\_\_ (6. happen). He \_\_\_\_\_ (7. film) the squid when a large blue shark \_\_\_\_\_ (8. arrive) and began eating the dead squid for lunch!

Al told \_\_\_\_\_ (9. tell) an Australian newspaper that in all his years of fishing he'd never seen anything like it.

**Exercise 2. Put the story in the correct order.**

### Ray didn't finish the race

1. Lisa was watching the race when Ray fell over.
2. She tried to help him get up.
3. He had only run three miles when he fell over and hurt his foot.
4. But he couldn't stand because he had hurt his ankle.
5. When Ray's leg was better, he asked Lisa on a date.
6. When the ambulance arrived, Lisa and Ray were chatting and laughing.

**Six months later, they got married.**

**Exercise 3. Find and correct the mistakes.**

1. I played rugby when I broke my arm.
2. I watched the race when Hope won the gold medal and broke the world record.
3. Were city beating Arsenal in last night's game?
4. The referee didn't concentrate when Burton touched the ball with his hand.
5. In yesterday's Brazilian Grand Prix, Lewis was finishing in second place.
6. Boxer Joe Foster was fighting over 100 opponents when he retired in 1994.

## ANSWER KEY

**Exercise 1.**

1. were you doing    2. saw    3. was fishing  
4. didn't know    5. looked    6. happened  
7. was filming    8. arrived    9. told

**Exercise 2.**

3-1-2-4-6-5

**Exercise 3.**

1. I played rugby when I broke my arm.  
I was playing rugby when I broke my arm.
2. I watched the race when Hope won the gold medal and broke the world record.  
I was watching the race when Hope won the gold medal and broke the world record.
3. Were city beating Arsenal in last night's game?  
Did City beat Arsenal in last night's game?
4. The referee didn't concentrate when Burton touched the ball with his hand.  
The referee wasn't concentrating when Burton touched the ball with his hand.
5. In yesterday's Brazilian Grand Prix, Lewis was finishing in second place.  
In yesterday's Brazilian Grand Prix, Lewis finished in second place.
6. Boxer Joe Foster was fighting over 100 opponents when he retired in 1994.  
Boxer Joe Foster had fought over 100 opponents when he retired in 1994.